

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A floor mat laid in a small animals rearing cage for housing and rearing small animals, said floor mat is a sheet comprising a temperature holding property to a degree that can keep the body temperature of ~~said~~ the small animals, a flexibility to a degree that can wrap the body of ~~said~~ the small animals, and a size that covers at least the entire abdomen of ~~said~~ the small animals.

2. (Currently amended) The floor mat according to Claim 1, ~~comprising a~~ wherein the size of said sheet for covering covers at least the abdomen and the head of said small animals.

3. (Currently amended) The floor mat according to Claim 1, ~~further comprising wherein the sheet has~~ a water absorption property and deodorization property.

4. (Currently amended) The floor mat according to Claim 1, ~~further comprising wherein the sheet has~~ a tearing resistance.

5. (Currently amended) The floor mat according to Claim 4, ~~comprising an~~ wherein the sheet is formed of an improved cellulose fabric wherein carboxyl group-introduced cellulose is formed in a shape of sheet.

6. (Currently amended) A small animal rearing cage for housing and rearing small animals, said small animal rearing cage comprising: a rearing box having a floor and a wall provided at a circumference of ~~said~~ the floor; and a floor mat formed with a sheet having a temperature holding property to a degree that can keep the body temperature of ~~said~~ the small animals, a flexibility to a degree that can wrap the body of ~~said~~ the small animals, and a size that covers at least the entire abdomen of ~~said~~ the small animals

7. (Currently amended) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 6, wherein said floor mat is ~~laid~~ positioned upon the floor of said rearing box in such a way that a piece of sheet is folded ~~each other~~ to form folds.

8. (Currently amended) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 6, wherein said floor mat is ~~a sheet~~ larger in size than the floor area of said rearing box.

9. (Currently amended) The floor mat according to Claim 2, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the sheet has a water absorption property and deodorization property.

10. (Currently amended) The floor mat according to Claim 3, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the sheet has a tearing resistance.

11. (Currently amended) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 7, wherein said floor mat is ~~a sheet~~ larger in size than the floor area of said rearing box.

12. (Currently amended) The floor mat according to Claim 9, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the sheet has a tearing resistance.